



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to this week's newsletter for week four of term two. The children have begun to practice the school nativity play ready for you to come and watch in a few weeks' time. As we walk around the school we can hear the joyful sound of the children singing loud and proud.

School Nativity

Please remember that all costumes for the nativity need to be brought into school by Wednesday 4th December. Please can these be in a plastic bag with the child's name on. We look forward to seeing you all on the 13th December at 2:15pm to watch their wonderful performance.

Buddy System

We are excited to inform you that our new Buddy System is now in full operation at Stoke! As part of the launch of our new STOKE values, older pupils have been paired with the younger ones to offer support at lunchtime.

The children in Owls have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm. Please do look at Class Dojo to see more photos of them supporting their Bluebells buddies with putting on their coats before playtime. It's been wonderful to see the sense of teamwork and kindness that has already developed.



Severe Weather

As the weather turns colder, icy and snowy conditions may increase the risk of slips and trips on pathways around the school. We're committed to keeping these areas as safe as possible, but the unpredictability of winter weather can make it challenging to manage.

In cases of severe weather, our priority is to keep the school open whenever possible. However, some of our staff travel long distances, so we may need to assess each situation carefully. Rest assured, we will keep parents fully informed of any changes to our normal schedule.

You can expect timely updates via Class Dojo, Facebook, and our school website. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to ensure everyone's safety this season.



Forest School

We are looking for volunteers to help out with Chestnut's class Forest Schools for Terms 3 and 4. This will be on a Thursday afternoon from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

Please note that, in line with the Wessex Learning Trust safeguarding policies, all school volunteers will need to be fully DBS checked before they are able to work with any children.



School Council

We had our first School Council meeting last week and we wanted to share some of the lovely ideas our pupils came up with. They were very keen to share the changes they want to make in school and there was a common theme around improving playtimes. We plan to hold these meetings every other Wednesday.

- A 'proper' football, goalkeeper gloves that can be kept in school, swing, more play equipment
- Monkey bars, more fish in the tank, a ref for football, a playhouse
- School badges for 'star reader' at the end of term
- A gorilla and some dinosaurs on the playground
- More wet play toys
- Slide, trampoline, ball pit and a reading dog!



The first item on our agenda was to find out if pupils want to keep the current names/colours of the house teams or if they want to change them. The unanimous decision was to CHANGE the house names! We will be making a plan for this over the coming weeks and will keep you updates with any changes.

School Bingo

Don't forget to bring your friends and family along to our amazing Bingo night this Friday 29th November. Doors open at 6:30pm, eyes down at 7:00pm. We have some fabulous prizes to be won, and we will also have the bar open.

Church Christmas Fair

The Church is holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November in the village hall. The PTA are running a stall at this event and look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. There will even be a chance for the children to see Father Christmas.



Office Updates

Over the coming weeks, please keep an eye on all of our forms of communication for updates about the school.

We have the school Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StokeStMichaelSchool/>

We have Class Dojo

We have our X page – formally known as twitter <https://x.com/StokeSMSchool>

We have our wonderful new website page - <https://stokestmichaelprimary.co.uk>.

Please feel free to share the website link with friends, family, and anyone interested in keeping up to date with our school's latest news and events.



Term Dates

November

Friday 29th	Christmas Bingo - doors open 6:30pm / eyes down 7:00pm
Saturday 30th	Stoke St Michael Church Christmas Fayre in Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall
December	
Thursday 12th	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13th	School Nativity 2:15pm in the school hall
Thursday 19th	Christmas Lunch
Friday 20th	Last Day of Term 2
Saturday 21st	Village Family Christmas Walk – meet at 2:00pm at the church followed by mince pies, mulled wine and carols back at the church. Donations collected will be shared with the PTA and the church.
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January	School Holiday
January	
Monday 6th	Inset Day
Tuesday 7th	Start of term 3
Thursday 9th	Forest School – Chestnuts –Thursday 9th January - Thursday 3rd April
Wednesday 29th	Chinese New Year (Snake)
February	
Tuesday 11th	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 17th – Friday 21st	School Holiday
Monday 24th	Start of Term 4



Stoke St. Michael Primary School

Together We Are Proud, Together We Are STOKE

The weekly Newsletter from Stoke St Michael

Monday 25th November



Please look out for some posters we will be displaying around the village to promote our school!